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## Greece

## Citrus Semi-Annual

## 1999

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### Report Highlights:

Citrus production in 1998 was revised downward to 620,000 mt for oranges, 60,000 mt for tangerines, and 100,000 mt for lemons due to poor weather conditions throughout the 1998 growing season. As a result, exports for MY99 are expected to reach only 50 to 60% of MY 1998 levels, while 1999 orange juice production is forecast to be 30% below 1998. Export prices for oranges are 15% to 25% higher than the previous year due to the short crop and as a result of increased exports to other EU countries, which tend to be more remunerative than Eastern European markets.

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Includes PSD changes: Yes  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Semi-Annual Report  
Athens [GR1], GR



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## **Executive Summary**

The Ministry of Agriculture has again recently revised its data on the area planted to organized citrus orchards for the years 1996 and 1997 as shown in the PS & D tables. These recent revisions show a small increase of acreage for all three citrus fruits - oranges, tangerines and lemons - from data carried in our earlier report GR-8027 of Nov. 16, 1998. No revisions were made in the 1996 and 1997 production data, while the 1998 forecasts were revised downwards to 620,000 m.t. for oranges, 60,000 m.t. for tangerines and 100,000 m.t. for lemons from those carried in our November report due to the adverse weather conditions. (spring frost and summer heat wave).

MY exports for oranges, tangerines and lemons through mid March 1999 fell 130,000 mt, 25,000 mt and 12,000 mt respectively compared to 240,000 mt, 28,000 mt and 20,000 mt for the same period last year. Total volume of orange and lemon exports during the 1998-99 MY are expected to amount to about 50 to 60 percent of those of a year earlier, due to the smaller 1998 crop.

Export FOB prices for oranges this season ranged between \$230 to \$270 per m.t. compared to \$180 to \$240 of a year earlier. The higher prices this season are basically due to the very short supply and the fact that exports to other EU countries increased to 34 percent of total exports this year compared to shipments to the EU during MY 1997-98 of only 17 percent of total exports. Most of the remaining exports went to Eastern European countries and Russia. Exports FOB prices for both tangerines and lemons, were also higher this season basically due to the short supply situation. Orange juice concentrate (65<sup>0</sup> Brix) production during the 1998-99 year is presently expected to be appreciably lower than last year and be close to 10,250 m.t. as against 15,000 m.tons of a year earlier. The short 1998/99 production is again due to the very short 1998 orange crop.

At present, the advance EU aid that the growers receive for oranges delivered to OJC processing plants amounts to 18 drs/kg (\$0.06/kg). This aid is expected to be adjusted by the end of the season to 23 to 25 drs/kg (\$0.08 to \$0.099/ kg). In addition, the processors pay the growers 6 to 10 drs/kg (\$0.02 to \$0.04/kg) as a result of bargaining between the two parties. These prices compared to those secured by growers during the previous 1997/98 season are virtually the same. The Greek OJC (60<sup>0</sup> Brix) is presently sold ex-factory at about 400 drs/kg (\$1.40/kg) while comparable Brazilian product, adjusted at the same concentration, sells for about 480 drs/kg (\$1.68/kg) CIF.

Exchange Rates		
1998	\$1.00 U.S.	Drs 294.30
1999 (Jan.-Mar.)	\$1.00 U.S.	Drs 286.79

**Fresh Oranges PS&D Table**

PSD Table						
Country	Greece					
Commodity	Fresh Oranges				(HECTARES)(1000 TREES)(1000 MT)	
	Revised	1996	Preliminary	1997	Forecast	1998
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		09/1996		09/1997		09/1998
Area Planted	36600	38100	37000	38000	37300	38000
Area Harvested	35600	36900	36100	37000	36400	37100
Bearing Trees	16000	16400	16250	16420	16400	16470
Non-Bearing Trees	470	500	400	450	400	400
TOTAL No. Of Trees	16470	16900	16650	16870	16800	16870
Production	946	946	985	985	800	620
Imports	3	3	1	1	2	4
TOTAL SUPPLY	949	949	986	986	802	624
Exports	358	358	321	321	280	180
Fresh Dom. Consumption	303	303	355	355	242	244
Processing	288	288	310	310	280	200
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	949	949	986	986	802	624

**Fresh Tangerines PS&D Table**

PSD Table						
Country	Greece					
Commodity	Fresh Tangerines				(HECTARES)(1000 TREES)(1000 MT)	
	Revised	1996	Preliminary	1997	Forecast	1998
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		09/1996		09/1997		09/1998
Area Planted	5480	6060	5600	6010	5600	6000
Area Harvested	5400	5970	5200	5920	5300	5920
Bearing Trees	2440	2950	2600	2930	2650	2930
Non-Bearing Trees	300	50	200	45	150	40
TOTAL No. Of Trees	2740	3000	2800	2975	2800	2970
Production	76	76	82	82	70	60
Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	76	76	82	82	70	60
Exports	27	27	28	28	25	25
Fresh Dom. Consumption	42	42	51	51	40	31
Processing	7	7	3	3	5	4
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	76	76	82	82	70	60

**Fresh Lemons PS&D Table**

PSD Table						
Country	Greece					
Commodity	Fresh Lemons				(HECTARES)(1000 TREES)(1000 MT)	
	Revised	1996	Preliminary	1997	Forecast	1998
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		09/1996		09/1997		09/1998
Area Planted	11400	12000	10700	11970	10600	11900
Area Harvested	11050	11630	10400	11630	10300	11610
Bearing Trees	3870	3840	3650	3840	3620	3830
Non-Bearing Trees	120	120	100	110	80	100
TOTAL No. Of Trees	3990	3960	3750	3950	3700	3930
Production	147	147	158	158	130	100
Imports	6	6	3	3	6	6
TOTAL SUPPLY	153	153	161	161	136	106
Exports	52	52	35	35	35	18
Fresh Dom. Consumption	58	58	94	94	66	68
Processing	43	43	32	32	35	20
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	153	153	161	161	136	106

**Juice Orange PS&D Table**

PSD Table						
Country	Greece				Degrees Brix	
Commodity	Juice, Orange				(MT)	
	Revised	1996	Preliminary	1997	Forecast	1998
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		09/1996		09/1997		09/1998
Deliv. To Processors	288	288	310	310	280	200
Beginning Stocks	3674	3674	4344	4344	2744	2844
Production	14800	14800	15900	15000	14400	10250
Imports	10200	10200	7500	7500	7000	8000
TOTAL SUPPLY	28674	28674	27744	26844	24144	21094
Exports	6330	6330	6500	6000	5500	2500
Domestic Consumption	18000	18000	18500	18000	18000	18000
Ending Stocks	4344	4344	2744	2844	644	594
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	28674	28674	27744	26844	24144	21094